



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Gregory G. Lockhart
Southern District of Ohio

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2008
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/ohs>

CONTACT: Fred Alverson
614-469-5715

WEST MILTON MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

To Receive Ten Year Minimum Prison Sentence Due to Prior Sex Offense Conviction

DAYTON – Charles Franks, age 34, of West Milton, pleaded guilty in United States District Court here today to one count of Possession of Child Pornography.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, and Brian Moskowitz, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced the plea entered today before United States District Judge Walter H. Rice.

According to a statement of facts filed with his plea agreement, Franks admitted to knowingly possessing more than 600 still images and videos of minors. The visual depictions were of children under the age of 18 engaging in sexually explicit conduct with adults and other children under the age of 18, along with images of prepubescent children and images of sadistic and masochistic conduct or other depictions of violence.

Franks was arrested by ICE agents in October, 2006 as part of Operation Predator, a nationwide ICE initiative to protect children from sexual predators, including those who travel overseas for sex with minors, Internet child pornographers, criminal alien sex offenders, and child sex traffickers. Since Operation Predator was launched in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 11,000 nationwide and more than 115 in Ohio.

Franks faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years and up to 20 years imprisonment due to a prior conviction for Gross Sexual Imposition in Wood County, Ohio in 1998. Franks was previously found guilty of engaging in sexual contact with a child under the age of 13. The possession of child pornography charge carries additional penalties including a fine of up to \$250 thousand, at least five years to a lifetime on supervised release, and Franks will be required to register as a sexual offender upon his release from prison anywhere he resides in any state.

Judge Rice has scheduled Franks for sentencing on September 4, 2008.

“Following the command of President Bush, the U.S. Attorney’s Office is committed to prosecuting anyone who targets a child for harm,” Lockhart said. “Anyone who takes the life or

innocence of a child will be punished to the full extent of the law. We also recognize the need for a broad, community-based effort to protect our children and to guarantee to future generations the opportunities of the American dream.”

Lockhart commended the investigation by agents of ICE and Assistant U.S. Attorney Laura Clemmens, who is prosecuting the case.

"ICE is committed to aggressively pursuing those who use the internet to exploit innocent children," said Brian Moskowitz, special agent-in-charge of the ICE office of investigations in Detroit. "Child pornography is a heinous crime committed against the most vulnerable segment of society - our children."

ICE encourages the public to report suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

#